

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 /025 W

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R 211130Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3514

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5308

ABIDJAN FOR RSO MONROVIA FOR ATO

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS/: ASEC ABLD ACOM

SUB: CHANCERY PROPERTY NO. 02524

REF: A. ACCRA 4452, B. STATE 172457,

1. POST STILL AWAITING RESULTS OF ELECTRICAL SURVEY OF CHANCERY WHICH NOW EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY AUG 2, 1976. PROBLEMS WITH OVERLOADED, ANTIQUATED SYSTEM CONTINUE. ON 16 JULY AN ELECTRIC OUTLET IN NCOIC OFFICE SHORTED AND BEGAN SMOKING; AGAIN ON 18 JULY THE CIRCUIT TO ONE AC UNIT IN C&R OVERHEATED AND BEGAN TO SMOLDER. NO FIRE OR SERIOUS DAMAGE IN EITHER CASE ONLY BECAUSE OF FORTUITOUS PRESENCE OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

2. ADDED TO PROBLEM IS JULY 17 FAILURE OF COMMO GENERATOR (ONLY EMERGENCY SOURCE AT CHANCERY). EXPECT TO BEGIN REPAIRS JULY 22-23 BUT MEANWHILE ANY LOSS OF PUBLIC POWER WILL CUT MISSION TELECOM LINKS.

3. INADEQUATE ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND GENERATING CAPACITY OF IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUING CONCERN AND POST RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING:

A. PROCURE 50KW GENERATOR ASAP. POST HAS CONTRACT WITH ATLANTIC ENGINE POWER BALTIMORE FOR DELIVERY OF 220/380/3/50 CAT

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DIESEL ELECTRIC SET WITH AUTOMATIC SWITCHOVER FOR INSTALLATION

ANNEX. PROPOSE FBO AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF IDENTICAL UNIT AT CHANCERY ON THE BASIS OF STANDARIZATION WHICH WOULD FACILITATE MAINTENNANCE AND SPARE PARTS. COST CF TEMA APPROXIMATELY DOLS 18,000. ESTIMATE COST OF FUEL TANK, INSTALLATION AND HOOK-UP AT DOLS 5,000.

B. INSTALL NEW ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PER US SPECS. COMMON INSTALLATION GHANA IS EXPOSED, UNGROUNDED WIRING WITH FUSE WIRE FOR CIRCUIT PROTECTION. GIVEN WOODEN CONSTRUCTION OF CHANCERY (MOSTLY WITHOUT DEADWALL SPACE) PROPOSE REWIRING USING EXPOSED NON-FERROUS CONDUIT AND CHANNELING. AS LOCAL MARKET CANNOT SUPPLY ELECTRIC MATERIAL FURTHER PROPOSE US PROCUREMENT FOR ALL ITEMS. AS LOAD REQUIREMENT OF ANY NEW SYSTEM DEPENDENT UPON FBO DECISION TO ACCEPT RSO AND INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIO TO EXPAND OB CANNOT ESTIMATE COST.

4. CANNOT OVER EMPHASIZE URGENT NATURE OF PROBLEM.

ACTION REQUESTED:

A. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR NEW GENERATOR PER PARA 3 ABOVE.

B. FBO ENGINEER DESIGN NEW ELECTRIC SYSTEM WITH SUFFICIENT CAPACITY FOR EXPANSION AND SUBMIT TO POST FOR REVIEW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ACCRA05308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760281-0121
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760739/aaaabhjm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ACCRA 4452, 76 STATE 172457
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCERY PROPERTY NO. 02524
TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, ACOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006